

Mayor Kirk Caldwell City and County of Honolulu 530 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Mayor Michael P. Victorino County of Maui 200 South High Street, 9th Floor Wailuku, Hawaii 96793



Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami County of Kauai 4444 Rice Street Lihue, Hawaii 96766

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump The President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Request for travel ban to and from the State of Hawai'i

We the Mayors of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui and County of Kauai, State of Hawai'i, are writing to you to respectfully request that you issue an order that restricts all non-essential domestic travel to the State of Hawai'i until April 30, 2020. This restriction would not apply to employees of critical infrastructure industries, including but not limited to, public health professionals, financial services, and food supply. These employees of critical infrastructure, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security (https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforceexternal icon), have a special responsibility to maintain normal work schedules.

The State of Hawai'i is in a very unique situation unlike any other state in the union. As islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the only way to come into the state is by air or sea. Most of the positive test results of COVID-19 infection in the State of Hawai'i are directly related to travelers coming into the State of Hawai'i – either residents returning to their island homes or visitors from the mainland or other countries who travel to Hawai'i. Now is not the time for non-essential travel.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell, City and County of Honolulu, issued a Stay At Home / Work From Home Order on March 22, 2020: all residents of Honolulu are ordered to stay at their place of residence, all non-essential businesses are ordered to cease all activities, and all non-essential public and private gatherings are prohibited. Only travel to perform essential activities, essential governmental functions, or essential businesses are allowed. This order is in effect until April 30, 2020, unless otherwise extended or suspended.

Hawai'i Governor David Y. Ige ("Governor Ige") also issued an Emergency Proclamation on March 4, 2020 and Supplementary Proclamations on March 16, 2020, March 21, 2020, and March 23, 2020, all related to reducing the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Hawai'i. Governor Ige mandated that all persons entering the State of Hawai'i be subject to self-quarantine for 14 days, with certain exceptions, to be in effect until May 20, 2020. Recently, Governor Ige extended the 14-day quarantine measure to include visitors arriving from neighbor islands, and ordered people state-wide to generally stay at home through April 30, 2020.

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Mayor Michael Victorino, County of Maui, issued a Public Health Emergency Proclamation on March 4, 2020, and on March 22, 2020, issued an amendment to require everyone in the county to stay in their homes or places of lodging, except for essential work, activities or government functions, which took effect on March 25. Maui County is comprised of three islands, each of which has its own airport. Although arrivals have been significantly reduced, individuals continue to arrive on each of the islands.

Mayor Derek Kawakami, County of Kauai. ordered and implemented nighttime curfew effective Friday, March 20, 2020, with three goals in mind: (1) protecting and preserving resources; (2) managing the spread of COVID-19 by increasing social distancing, and (3) ensuring that essential services, operations, and family care can continue. When he issued Kaua'i County's mandatory curfew order, Mayor Kawakami stated that airline travel to and from the Island of Kaua'i should be limited to essential needs only, adding, "Until further notice, visitors should not be travelling to our island for recreational purposes." Currently, Kaua'i has twelve confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Similar to Hawai'i, other states — Alaska, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts — have mandated that travelers arriving from out of state must self-quarantine for two weeks upon arrival into those states.

At your direction, the United States has already taken action consistent with this request to limit travel to Hawai'i; including the travel ban for certain passengers from China to the United States that you issued on January 31, 2020, and your initiative to Slow the Spread of COVID-19, which was recently extended.

Despite these restrictions to reduce travel and the spread of COVID-19 infections, individuals continue to arrive in the State of Hawai'i. Domestic and international airlines have dramatically reduced their round trip airfares to Hawai'i, which has and will continue to encourage people to risk travelling to Hawai'i — especially those who otherwise may not have been able to afford to come. On March 30, 2020, 681 domestic and international travelers arrived in the state, all of which pose a heightened risk of spreading COVID-19 throughout our state. Unless something is done at the federal level, such travel to Hawai'i will continue, and lead to an avoidable healthcare crisis and tragedy in our state.

As of April 1, 2020, Hawai'i has 258 positive cases of COVID-19, up by 34 cases from yesterday. This is the largest daily increase to date. And, Hawai'i just suffered its first fatality from COVID-19 today, with more likely to come.

In order to preserve and protect the health, safety, and well-being of our Counties and our residents, and consistent with the White House's extended Slow the Spread initiative, we respectfully request that you order a ban on all non-essential travel to the State of Hawai'i until April 30, 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Kirk Caldwell

City and County of Honolulu

Mayor Michael P. Victorino County of Maui

Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami County of Kauai